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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to Fax No. (703)872-9306 on December 30, 2004.

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CU-2845

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

Atsushi Hayakawa et al

SERIAL NO:

10/074,359

) Group Art Unit: 1744

FILED:

February 12, 2002

) Examiner: Elizabeth L. McKane

TITLE:

METHOD OF STERILIZATION FOR CONTAINER, APPARATUS USING

THEREFOR, AND HEAT TREATMENT FOR CONTAINER

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR THREE MONTH EXTENSION

Sir:

With reference to the Office Action dated July 12, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests a three-month extension of the response term, from the present term of October 1, 2004, up to a new term of January 1, 2005. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0400 in the amount of \$1020 to cover the fee for this three-month extension, or any required fees in excess of the amount submitted, or credit any overpayment.

December 30, 2004

Date

Respectfully submitted, Mi h. Harle

Attorney for Applicant Brian W. Hameder c/o Ladas & Parry LLP 224 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60604

(312) 427-1300 Reg. No. 45613

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PAGE 3/6 ' RCVD AT 12/30/2004 2:05:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:312 427 6563 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-34